

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) [[The]] A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of for treating water glass wastewater, comprising the steps of introducing alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to biodegrade said wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater and separating water glass from water after treatment with alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of separating water glass from water comprises the steps of lowering the pH of said wastewater being biodegraded by alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to coagulate the water glass and removing coagulated water glass.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of separating water glass from water comprises the steps of adjusting the pH of said wastewater being biodegraded by alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to a range within 6-11 to coagulate the water glass and removing coagulated water glass.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of separating water glass from water comprises the step of distilling said wastewater being biodegraded by alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to remove water and concentrated water glass.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A method for separating water glass from water, comprising the step of adjusting the pH of the water containing water glass to a range within 6-11 to coagulate the water glass and removing coagulated water glass.
10. (Previously presented) A method for separating water glass from water, comprising the step of boiling biotreated wastewater containing water glass.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously presented) A method for treating water glass wastewater, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) obtaining alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes;
  - (b) introducing alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes to biodegrade said water glass wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater; and
  - (c) distilling said wastewater to separate water glass from water.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes are cultured on activated carbon.
16. (Previously presented) A method for treating water glass wastewater, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) collecting alkalophilic/ alkaline-tolerant microbes from water treatment facilities;
  - (b) culturing said microbes in water glass waste water with ADMI ranging from 200 – 45,000;

(c) introducing said microbes to biodegrade said water glass wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater;

(d) lowering the pH of said wastewater to coagulate water glass; and

(e) removing coagulated water glass from water.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes are cultured on activated carbon.

18. (Previously presented) A method for treating water glass wastewater, comprising the steps of:

(a) collecting alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes from water treatment facilities;

(b) culturing said microbes in water glass wastewater with ADMI ranging from 200 – 45,000.

(c) introducing said microbes to biodegrade said water glass wastewater without any prior pH adjustment of said wastewater; and

(d) distilling said wastewater to obtain concentrated water glass for reuse.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said alkalophilic/alkaline-tolerant microbes are cultured on activated carbon.